Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 5485

PARIS FOR UNESCO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ETEL, SOPN, MO

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NWIO AT UNESCO CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 183368

- 1. IN AUGUST 30 CONVERSATION BETWEEN MFA CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION CHIEF ABDERRAHAM BOUCHAARA AND ACTING PAO, THE SUBJECT OF THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER UNESCO MEETING AROSE. ACTING PAO MENTIONED US CONCERN THAT EXTREMISTS MIGHT USE THE MEETING TO ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS. BOUCHAARA WAS ASKED ABOUT MOROCCO'S POSITION ON "FREE FLOW" AND OTHER MEDIA ISSUES OF THIS SORT.
- 2. BOUCHAARA REPLIED THAT WHILE MOROCCO PERCEIVED A PROBLEM IN THE FACT THAT A FEW PRESS AGENCIES HAD A "MONOPOLY" ON NEWS REPORTING, MOROCCO HAD TAKEN A MODERATE STANCE ON MEDIA ISSUES AT THE LAST UNESCO MEETING IN NAIROBI (WHICH BOUCHAARA ATTENDED) AND EXPECTED TO DO THE SAME AT THE UPCOMING MEETING.

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3. BOUCHAARA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO "COORDINATE" THE MOROCCAN POSITION ON MEDIA MATTERS EXPECTED TO COME UP IN THE UNESCO CONFERENCE WITH THE AMERICAN POSITION, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY WRITTEN INFORMATION WE HAD ABOUT OUR POSITION, PARTICULARLY IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES FROM THE LAST MEETING. HE NOTED THAT MOROCCO EXPECTS TO SUPPORT A JORDANIAN WHO IS THE

ARAB LEAGUE CHOICE OF THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE HE HAD HEARD FROM THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE US IS SUPPORTING A CANADIAN.

MOROCCO ALSO EXPECTS TO SUPPORT THE ARAB LEAGUE CANDIDATE, MOHAMMED EL FASSI, A MOROCCAN, FOR A POSITION ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- 4. EMBREP NOTED (PER STATE 183368) THAT SIMILAR DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDES OVER MEDIA ARE EXPECTED TO ARISE IN THE 1979 WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. MR. BOUCHAARA WAS UNAWARE OF THIS CONFERENCE AND ASKED TO BE SENT DETAILS OF THE PROBABLE ISSUES AND THE AMERICAN POSITION.
- 5. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE DEPT WISHES TO TAKE BOUCHAARA UP ON HIS OFFER TO "COORDINATE" ON MEDIA MATTERS AT THE UNESCO CONFERENCE, PLEASE SEND APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS AND MATERIALS IN FRENCH. DITTO ON THE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE. ANDERSON

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